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Opinion

Kamala Harris Definitely Earned It (DEI)

Vice President Kamala Harris has a political career that is classic textbook. She leveraged her legal training at the University of California into a position in the District Attorney's office. Then she ran for San Francisco District Attorney, beating the incumbent in a runoff election. She came out on top of a crowded Democratic primary for California Attorney General, and narrowly defeated her Republican opponent for the office in 2010.

She overwhelmingly beat her Republican opponent when she ran for re-election in 2014. When she ran for the United States Senate in 2016, she garnered twice as many votes as the next-highest vote getter, and in the final election earned more than 60 percent of the vote.

The Vice-President's electoral history is well-known, and I recount it for a reason. Kamala Harris earned increasing responsibility by running for office and winning. There is no diversity, equity and inclusion in electoral politics. The only way you move up is to get more votes than your opponent. If there is any DEI in the Harris record, it's Definitely Earned It.



Julianne Malveaux

Trice Edney
News Wire
Columnist

Tennessee Congressman Tim Burchett made headlines by describing our Vice-President as a "DEI hire", describing her as "checking all the boxes". Her electoral record

“Kamala Harris is used to the lies, the slurs, the white male disdain

refutes that fact. The Vice President didn't just drop out of a coconut tree, to paraphrase her. She has worked for every office she has earned. To be sure, she was selected to serve as President Biden's running mate. But she would not have been selected had she not been elected so many times.

If the rabid Republicans stuck to describing our Vice President and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee as DEI, that would be an ill-placed slur. But former President Trump and his equally woman hating Vice President have stooped even

lower, describing our Vice President as "garbage", "bum" and "crazy."

Throw a little "San Francisco liberal" in there to complete the predictable cocktail of slurs and attacks. No one is surprised by the Trump slurs, as the former President is amazingly consistent in his approach to his opponents. Indeed, the inarticulate nature of his slurs leads one to question his mental competency and suggest that he be

Kamala Harris is used to the lies, the slurs, the white male disdain. She's had to deal with that through much of her career, as most women in power have. Trump is an expert at disparaging women, attacking their looks (Carly Fiorina, E. Jean Carroll), their clothing (Nicky Haley), their mental acuity (Nancy Pelosi) and more. All I say to these rabid Republicans is, "bring it". Vice President Kamala Devi Harris is time enough for you. Mr. Vance has described the Harris candidacy as a "gut punch" to the Trump-Vance ticket.

Instead of campaigning against a Biden they'd described as "old" and feeble, they've got an opponent who is young, energetic and vital. Instead of debating the Biden who failed to challenge Trump on his incessant lies in the late June debate, he will be debating the prosecutor who sliced and diced Brett Kavanaugh during his Supreme Court confirmation hearing. Vice President Harris is not a gut punch, she is a knockout punch. She has definitely earned the nomination of her party, and indeed the presidency.

DEI, indeed! Definitely earned it!

Rent Relief: A Winning Policy Issue for the Harris Campaign

The Department of Labor recently released new Consumer Price Index data. It showed that while inflation has cooled down in many areas of the economy, rent prices continue their upward ascent across the country, with the annual increase now exceeding 5 percent.

Home prices have risen 47 percent since the pandemic, and according to a report released this year from Harvard University, over half of renters are now spending more than a third of their income on housing. Since 2020, the average rental price has risen 17% to \$1,713 monthly, and in cities like New York and San Francisco, average rents now top over \$3,000 a month.

As the former Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I know all too well the need for balanced and properly enforced legislation and regulations to remedy this problem. But the keyword here is balance.

The fact that rent prices are now falling in the U.S. markets where business owners have developed new rental units has proven that when the economy and building conditions approve, so does America's rental affordability.

For this reason, it is important that our nation's regulators let small business owners who risk their capital to con-



Edolphus Towns Jr.

Former
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Congress
(D-NY)

tinue purchasing and refurbishing derelict properties, which improves our communities and creates affordable rental units. That is why it is concerning that some regulators are targeting property management software these business owners use to do so.

“Since 2020, the average rental price has risen 17%

Using predictive data analytics, these software companies help business owners ensure they are pricing their homes and units accurately, preventing shortages (which ultimately inflate rental prices) and excessive vacancies (which decreases profit margins and disincentivizes future building) from developing. However, some regulators believe this software — by maximizing revenue potential — is to blame for the high rental costs many Americans are paying today. This is the equivalent of blaming Kel-

ley Blue Book for "raising" car prices, and if they outlaw this technology, it will backfire by disincentivizing housing development, which will ultimately reduce supply and increase prices. As the former Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I know that this supply reduction and additional inflation will hurt minority communities more than most.

While this policy prescription is not a winning one, there are fortunately no shortage of balanced solutions to make rent more competitive and affordable to working families.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the likely Democrat nominee, has a history of proposing sound affordable housing plans that resonate with voters. Given how much attention voters are paying to this issue, she should quickly make them a central part of her campaign platform.

For example, while serving in the U.S. Senate, Harris proposed the Rent Relief Act, which would have issued tax credits to all Americans who spend more than 30% of their incomes on rent. If passed, this proposal would have helped millions of Americans afford shelter. Today, over half a decade later, half of renters still shell out more than 30% of their incomes on rent and utilities, so this idea is without question one that

still has legislative merit.

Vice President Harris should also continue pledging to expand the Housing Choice Voucher program.

This program, also known as Section 8, provides rental assistance to low-income families, enabling them to afford housing in the private market. The Biden-Harris administration has proposed increasing funding for HCVs by \$5 billion, which could help as many as 200,000 additional households that spend over 30% of their income on rent afford their monthly payments.

The Housing Choice Voucher plan also includes measures to incentivize local governments to relax zoning laws that are restricting affordable housing while removing other counterproductive regulations that have discouraged developers from building new units. By making it easier to construct new properties, these policy prescriptions will prove crucial to quickly getting more affordable units on the marketplace.

All of Vice President Harris diverse solutions to improving Americans' rental conditions will provide mammoth leaps forward to fixing the status quo. With voters nationwide pressing their political leaders to address the housing crisis, she should share them on the campaign trail without delay.